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History
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THE STONEHAM NUMBER of a Series devoted to the illustration of certain of the cities and towns adjacent to the City of Boston with the presentation, in brief accompanying text, of some suggestive facts concerning their advantages and development.

Stoneham Public Library
Stoneham, Massachusetts

Presented by

The Family
of
Helen M. French
18 Wright St.
Stoneham, Mass.

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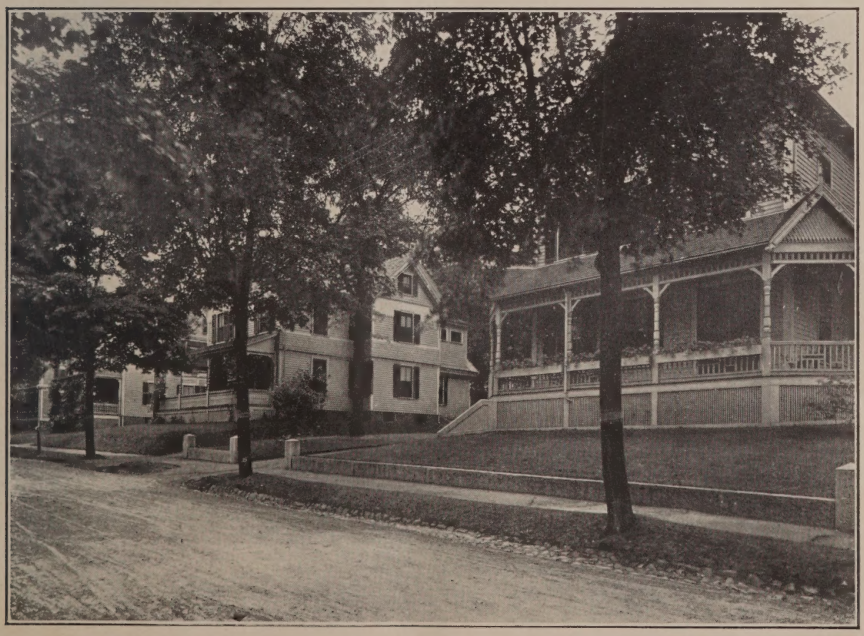
A general view of Stoneham from Bear Hill.

STONEHAM

As the journey is made to Stoneham, the approach thither, whether from Boston or from any neighboring place, seems to be one of continual ascent. Indeed, Stoneham is three or four hundred feet above tide-water and to this altitude with its accompanying invigorating air, as well as to the perfect drainage permitted by the situation of the main part of the Town on ranges of high hills, may be credited, doubtless, the noticeable healthfulness of Stoneham. This healthfulness, attested by the low death rate, together with other notable advantages, should make Stoneham a desirable place of increased residence as well as an excellent location for additional industrial enterprises.

Stoneham is in Middlesex County about eight miles north of Boston in an air line. It is the terminus of the Stoneham loop on the Southern Division of the Boston and Maine Railroad. On week days there are fourteen trains each way, while on Sundays there are five trains in each direction. The usual running time is forty-one minutes and the single



Some residences on Chestnut Street, Stoneham.

The Baptist Church at Stoneham.

fare is twenty cents; twelve rides cost $1.50; twenty-five $2.88. Electric railways with cars running at convenient intervals connect the Town with Melrose, Malden and Boston, Wakefield, Reading, Woburn and Winchester.

Because of the route the railway has been compelled to pursue, around and between the hills, the distance by rail from Boston is thirteen miles while the connection by electric railways was for many years not so direct as it might have been. These conditions, it may be assumed, hindered and delayed in some measure the development of Stoneham; but better things have come and time has brought correction.

Within the limits of the Town are seven hundred and thirty acres of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. This part, within Stoneham, including the picturesque Spot Pond Reservoir of the Metropolitan water supply, is believed by many to be the most beautiful part of the reservation. There can be no doubt that the ultimate effect of the creation of such a park, and the addition of so much beauty to already and naturally attractive surroundings, will prove of great benefit to Stoneham. About one-third of the area of the Town, however, was taken for park purposes and its taxable real property correspondingly reduced. More than this, the reservation may be said to

The Public Library at Stoneham.

The Roman Catholic Church at Stoneham.

have acted as something of a barrier to direct communication between Stoneham and Boston. At length, however, a franchise was obtained and this permitted the construction of an electric railway avoiding the long detour before necessary and reducing the traveling time to thirty minutes.

However deterrent may have been the effect of the transportation conditions, Stoneham is a very prosperous community, surely destined to acquire greater prosperity. It has a population approaching seven thousand; those entitled to vote number nearly eighteen hundred; the area of the town is six and six-tenths square miles and its assessed valuation is over $5,000,000.

Stoneham has the facilities properly considered in these modern days as so necessary to convenient and comfortable life. Ranged along the streets at its center are several business buildings and many stores of various kinds in which may be met the ordinary needs of everyday life.

Various denominations have appropriate and suitably located church edifices and these include the Congregational, Unitarian, Evangelical, Baptist and the Roman Catholic Churches. The old structure of the Methodist Church was burned recently and the ruins removed; but the new edifice while ornamental to the town, will prove an even more appropriate and convenient place of worship.

The Dean and Centre Schools, Stoneham.

The High School Building, Stoneham.

Twenty-five public schools, including the high school, all maintaining a high standard, find adequate quarters in six school buildings. Banking facilities are afforded by one National Bank, one Savings and one Co-operative Bank. The good water comes from the Metropolitan Water supply and is distributed through the town's system of pipes. High pressure service is secured because the water comes from a reservoir on the high elevation of Bear Hill. This water is available throughout the town. Gas for illuminating and cooking is supplied by the People's Gas and Electric Company of Stoneham.

The town is well sewered and the sewerage is carried away through a trunk sewer of the Metropolitan system.

The streets are lighted by electricity (moonlight schedule) until twelve-thirty at night, under a five-year contract with the Edison Electric Illuminating Company. This company also furnishes electricity for the illumination of residential and commercial structures, as well as for power, at its standard rates as established throughout the thirty-three cities and towns it supplies with electric current. The service of the company is continuous every hour of every day in the year.

The fire department is efficient and the police protection satisfactory. The fire department apparatus consists of one steam engine, one hook

Some of the stores and business buildings, Stoneham.

Factory of the T. H. Jones Shoe Company, Stoneham.

Works of the Stoneham Tanning Company.

Another view in the business streets, Stoneham.

Residences on High Street, Stoneham.

and ladder truck, one combination chemical and hose wagon and three hose wagons with suitable equipment, while chemical extinguishers are carried on the various pieces of apparatus. The public library was established in 1859. The extended collection of books is now contained in a well situated and well appointed Carnegie building.

The unquestionable advantages of Stoneham, as a place for the convenient and economical conduct of their operations, have led several important manufacturing establishments to locate here. Notable among these may be mentioned the T. H. Jones Shoe Company, with its large factory and its daily output of about eight thousand pairs of shoes intended for ultimate distribution mainly in the South and West; Healy Brothers, manufacturers of shoes for infants; P. Cogan & Son, with another big factory where boys' shoes of high quality are made; the Stoneham Tannery Company, with buildings noticeable for their size, as well as for the operations conducted; W. P. Fletcher, maker of paper boxes; the Vera Chemical Company; Stone & Forsythe, also makers of paper boxes as well as of twine and bags, and the E. L. Patch Company, manufacturers of Pharmaceutical preparations.

The latest available state "Report on Statistics of Labor" shows that in Stoneham in 1906 the capital devoted to production of manufactured articles amounted to considerably

Spot Pond from Bear Hill.

The Station of the Boston & Maine Railroad, Stoneham.

Works of the E. L. Patch Company, Stoneham.

over $700,000; that during the same year the value of the goods here made was $3,570,652 and that an aggregate of $609,340 was paid in wages to employed operatives averaging in number twelve hundred and thirty-nine.

Unusual opportunities are now presented for the advantageous location here of other industrial enterprises and newer-coming ones would share the favorable conditions which have already attracted so many and so important establishments to Stoneham. Many acres of land admirably situated and otherwise suitable for the erection of plants or buildings for the purposes of manufacturing, or of business, are available. Some of this land is closely adjacent to the railroad, while other parts of it are quite near by. With four stations within the town, the freight facilities afforded by the railroad are adequate, while Boston is the billing point. Possibly because of the present predominance of the boot and shoe industry of the town, the noticeable opportunities in Stoneham and its many advantages should be considered particularly inviting to other manufacturers of similar or kindred goods. At the same time, it is altogether probable that the special requirements of almost any kind of commercial or manufacturing enterprise could be met without trouble, or, indeed, with comparative ease. Among other advantages it should be noted that all the help probably

Shoe Factory of P. Cogan & Son, Stoneham.

Establishment of Stone & Forsythe, Stoneham.

Shoe Factory of Healy Brothers, Stoneham.

needed could be secured here to work throughout the entire year. Information which should be of interest and value to owners or managers seeking new locations or intending removal of manufacturing or business establishments, as well as to prospective residents—information concerning sites available for business structures, or for dwellings, or in regard to any readily obtainable factory buildings—will be given by the Town Clerk upon request. He may be addressed, or called upon, at the town offices.

Some of the abundant reasons why the manufacturing or business establishments in Stoneham should increase in number have been indicated. There exist as many and as potent reasons for the further growth of the Town as a place of residence, satisfactory alike to those who here shall find their business interests located, or to others having these in Boston.

The advantage to Stoneham and its residents conveyed by the location of so much of the beautiful Middlesex Fells reservation within the limits of the town has been stated in earlier pages; but charming rural views are numerous, while roads traverse all the town. From Bear Hill and from other elevations, extended and varying outlooks over a pleasant country may be obtained, while the hills themselves, in their contours and with their grassy or wooded slopes, are attractive when comprised

The Unitarian Church, Stoneham.

The Congregational Church, Stoneham.

A pretty spot in Middlesex Fells, within the limits of the Town of Stoneham.

within the view. Indeed, its altitude and unquestionable healthfulness together with the beauty and picturesque character of all the surroundings should commend Stoneham to all admirers of country or suburban life. Moreover, the quality of the residential sites now obtainable in the older part of the Town, in the newly developed Farm Hill district or in other portions, as well as its possession of available conveniences and its accessibility, by the railroad and by the old and newly constructed electric railways, should be regarded as among the advantages of Stoneham as a place for all the year or Summer homes.

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